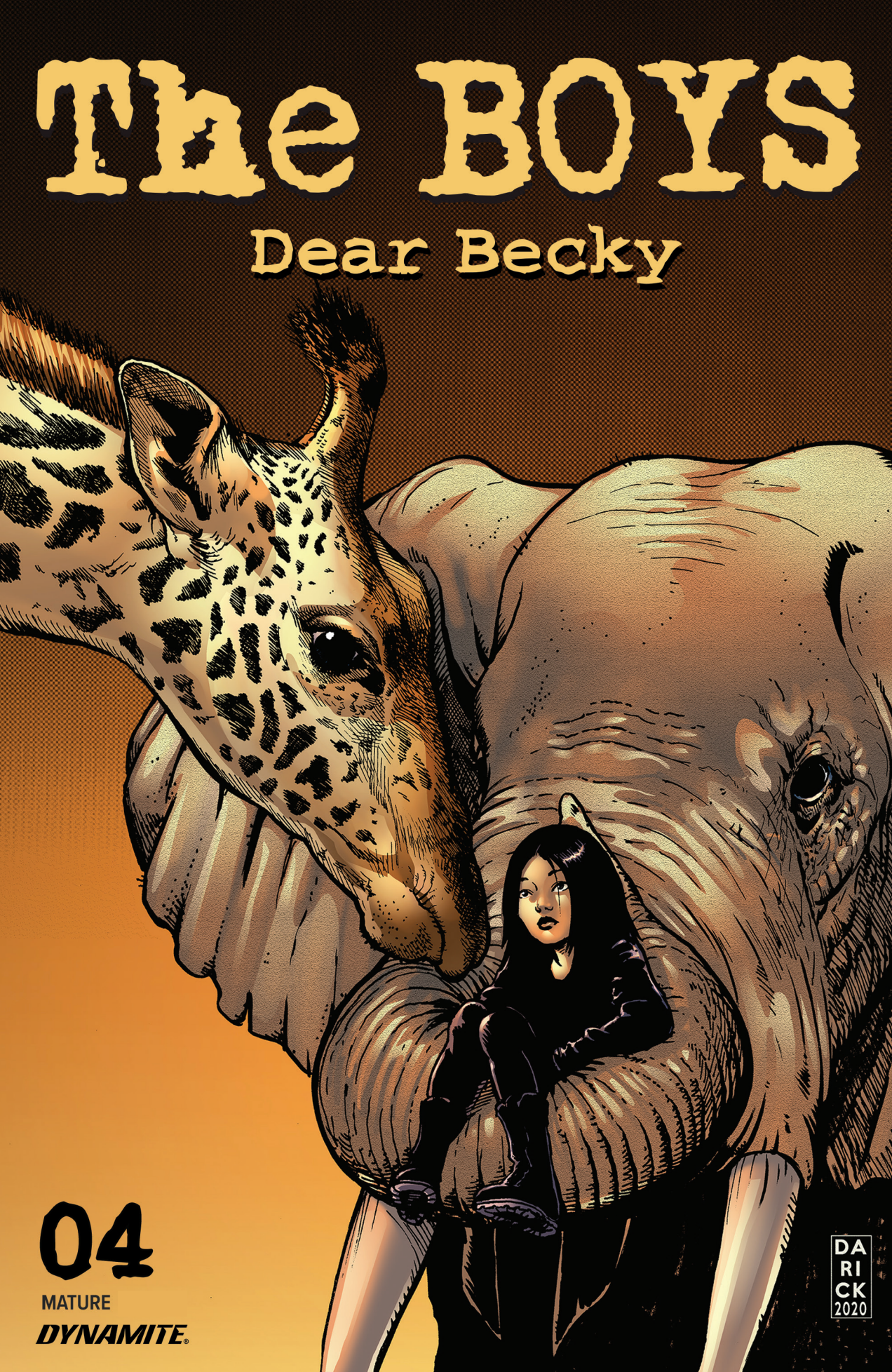
The BOYS

Dear Becky



04

MATURE

DYNAMITE

DA RI CK 2020

The BOYS™

Dear Becky

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04

Billy Butcher, Wee Hughie, Mother's Milk, The Frenchman and The Female were The Boys: a CIA-backed team of very dangerous people, each one dedicated to the struggle against the most lethal force on Earth — superpower. Some superheroes had to be watched. Some of them had to be controlled. And some of them — sometimes — had to be taken out of the picture.

The issue was decided in one final battle against a massed superhero army, when a plan concocted by the "supes" to overthrow the US government went horribly awry. Now, twelve years later, Hughie and his lover Annie January have returned to his home in the Scottish town of Auchterladle — their battles fought and won, their torment over.

The days when Colonel Greg Mallory led The Boys are firmly in the past. So too are the times Billy Butcher shared with a woman who strove to send him down a different road. All of that is over and done with. Finished.

Now read on…

DYNAMITE®

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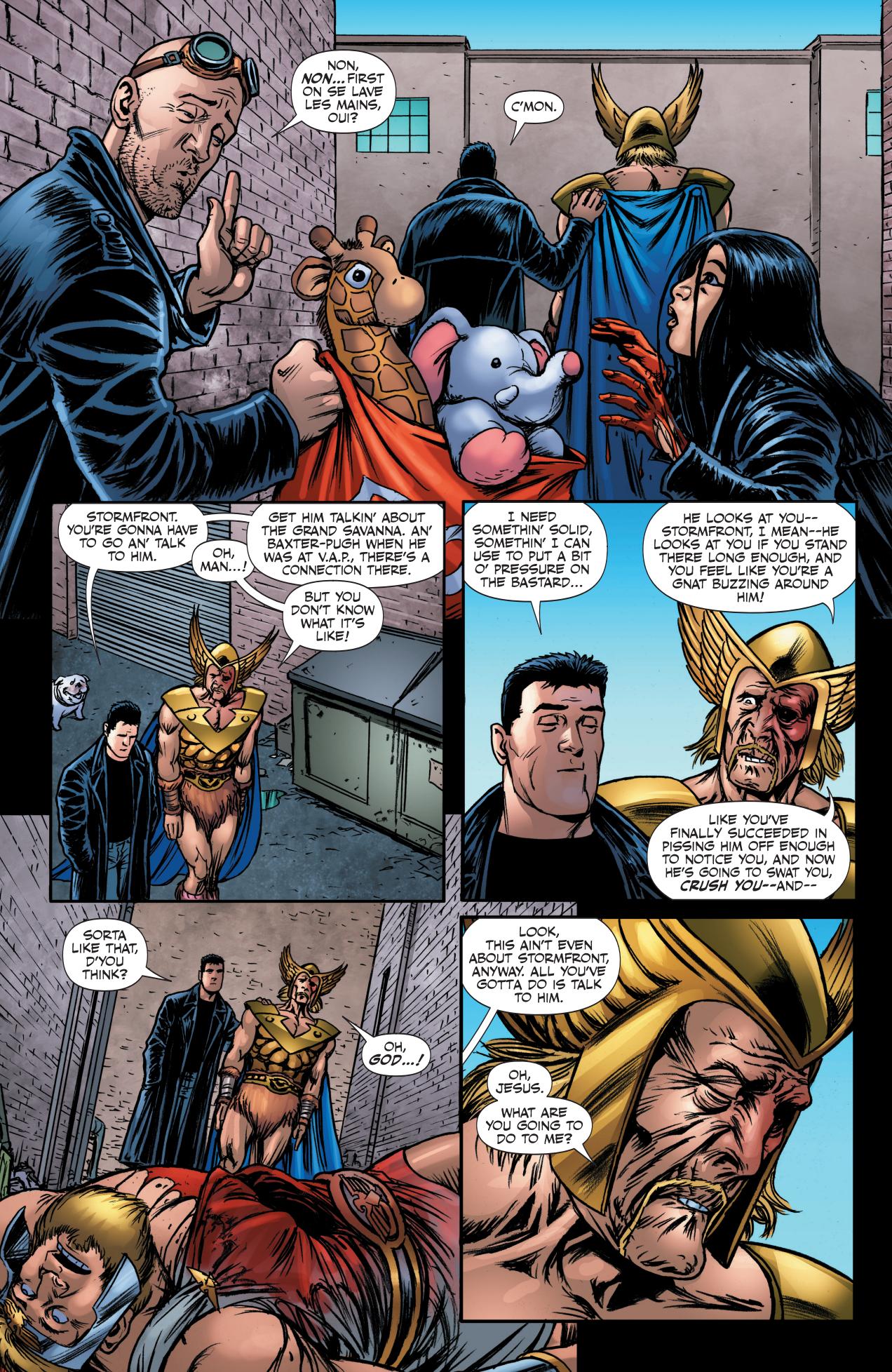
WHAT'S THAT?
PAUSE FOR EFFECT?
YOU HOPING TO STOP TIME OR SOMETHING?
BECAUSE I'VE GOT--
JESUS--!
UNNH--
HHNN NNHHH
WHAT THE FUCK--
JESUS CHRIST!
OH MY GOD, WHAT WAS THAT...?
WAAAH!

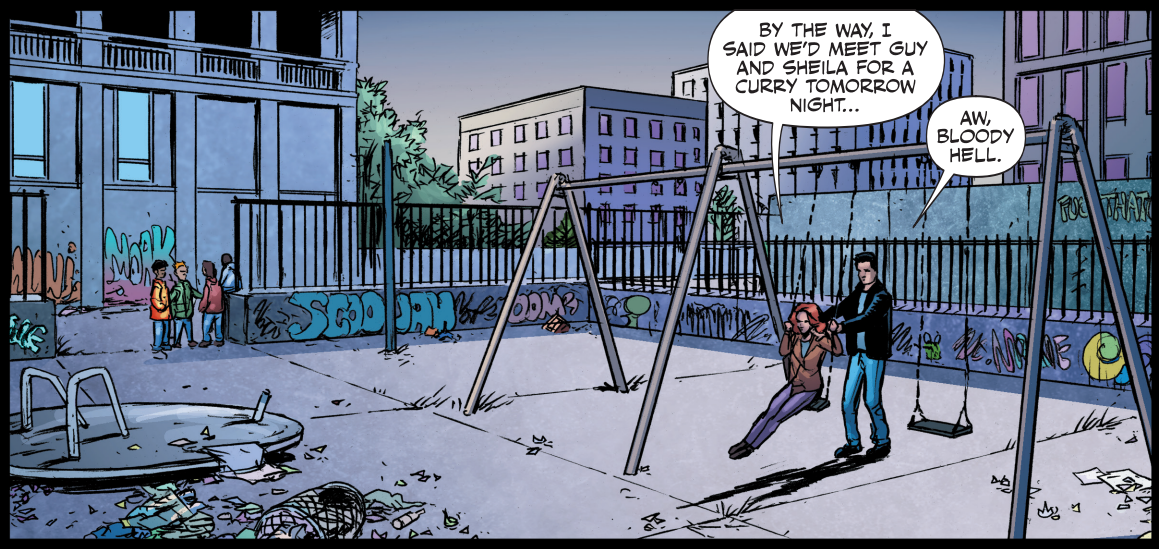
4: TUESDAY

WHATTHEFUCKISIT
WHOA--!
HONESTLY, SON, I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE SURPRISED.
AAAAAAAAAH!
YOU THINK I WOULDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE PISSED OFF AFTER WHAT I DONE TO YOU THE OTHER DAY?
AAAAAAAAAH!
WOULDN'T EXPECT SOMETHIN', AT LEAST? WOULDN'T PLAN AHEAD?
AAA--!
AN' SPEAKIN' OF THE OTHER DAY... WELL...WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO ABOUT THIS?
JESUS, WHY WON'T IT HOLD STILL--?
I MEAN AFTER WHAT YOU JUST TRIED TO DO, I CAN HARDLY LET YOU OFF WITH A BIT OF A SLAP...

M'SIEU CHARCUTER...!
OH, THERE HE IS!
I CALL ON THE FIRE OF ASGARD TO-- OKAY, FUCK THIS!
FAO SHWASTZ
WHERE THE BLOODY HELL'VE YOU BEEN?
UH, DESOLE, M'SIEU. LA FEMME INSISTED.
INSISTED ON WHAT? OH, FUCKIN' STROLL ON...!
M'SIEU CHARCUTER, SHE WAS MOST UPSET...I COULD NOT RISK ANOTHER WITHDRAWAL, PERHAPS THIS TIME BEYOND EVEN THE REACH OF LES CITRONS VERT DU CHOCOLAT...I KNEW HOW MUCH YOU NEEDED HER TODAY...
YOU SEE THE BOLLOCKS I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH?


NON, NON... FIRST ON SE LAVE LES MAINS, OUI?
C'MON.
STORMFRONT. YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO GO AN' TALK TO HIM.
OH, MAN...!
GET HIM TALKIN' ABOUT THE GRAND SAVANNA. AN' BAXTER-PUGH WHEN HE WAS AT V.A.P., THERE'S A CONNECTION THERE.
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE!
I NEED SOMETHIN' SOLID, SOMETHIN' I CAN USE TO PUT A BIT O' PRESSURE ON THE BASTARD...
HE LOOKS AT YOU-- STORMFRONT, I MEAN--HE LOOKS AT YOU IF YOU STAND THERE LONG ENOUGH, AND YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE A GNAT BUZZING AROUND HIM!
LIKE YOU'VE FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN PISSING HIM OFF ENOUGH TO NOTICE YOU, AND NOW HE'S GOING TO SWAT YOU, CRUSH YOU--AND--
SORTA LIKE THAT, D'YOU THINK?
OH, GOD...!
LOOK, THIS AIN'T EVEN ABOUT STORMFRONT, ANYWAY. ALL YOU'VE GOTTA DO IS TALK TO HIM.
OH, JESUS.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?

EH? YOU SAID...
OH, YEAH. WELL, I NEED YOU MORE OR LESS INTACT TO TALK TO THE BIG JERRY, DON'T I?
YOU MEAN--?
GONNA LOOK A BIT FUNNY IF I SEND YOU BACK WITH YER BALLS TIED ROUND YER NECK, OR WHATEVER. YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH EXPLAININ' TO DO AS IT IS.
ONE DEAD, TWO PROBABLY, ONE IN A COMA...WHAT'D YOU SAY HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE THERE, BY THE WAY?
UM... FREEBASING...
GOOD MAN.
I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF YOU EVER--
NO! NO, YOU DON'T! NEVER AGAIN, I SWEAR TO CHRIST!
NEVER!
OFF YOU GO, THEN.
YOU GOTTA LEAVE ME ALONE, LUV.
YOU'RE GONNA GET ME KILLED.

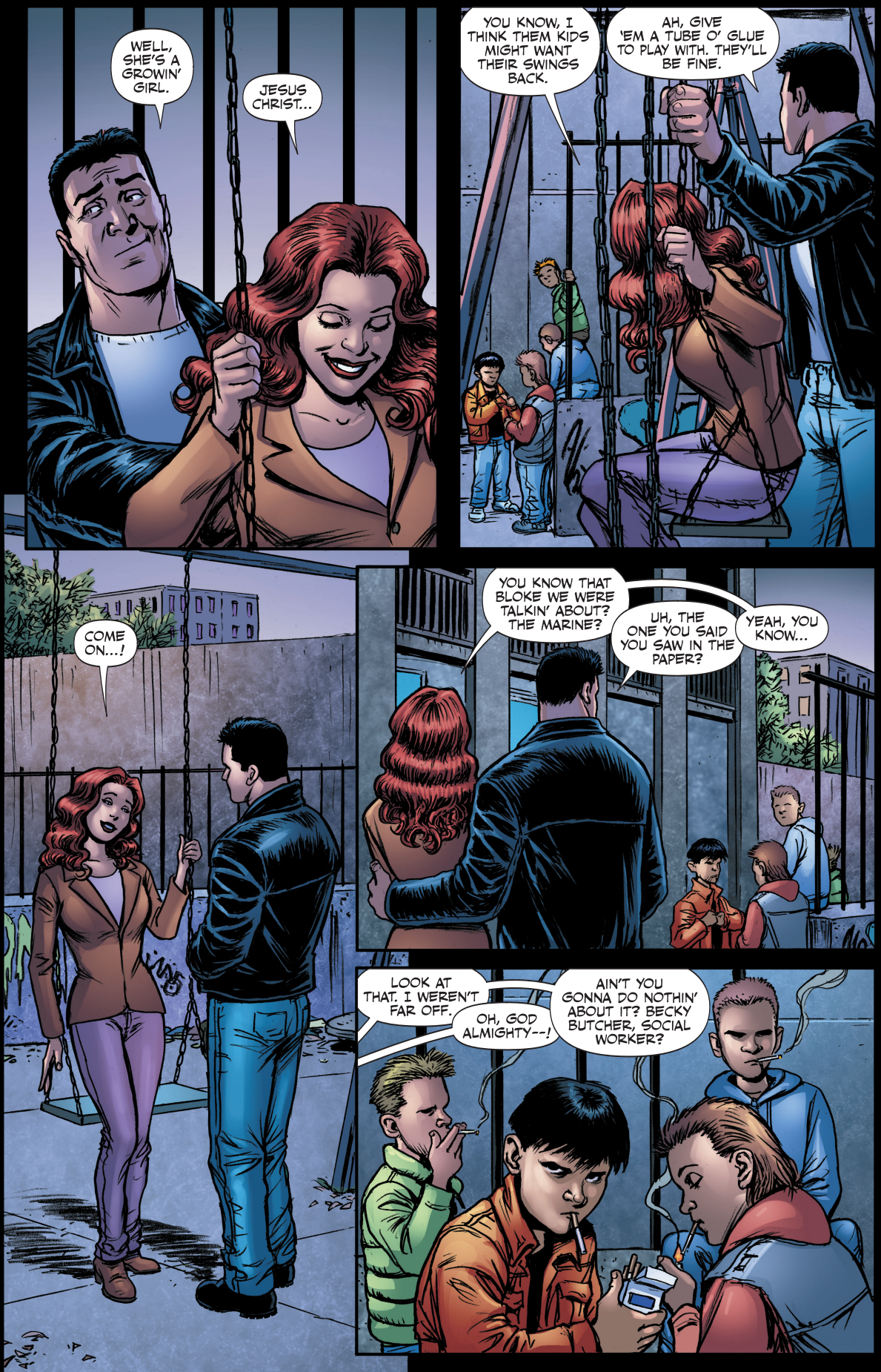

BY THE WAY, I SAID WE'D MEET GUY AND SHEILA FOR A CURRY TOMORROW NIGHT...
AW, BLOODY HELL.

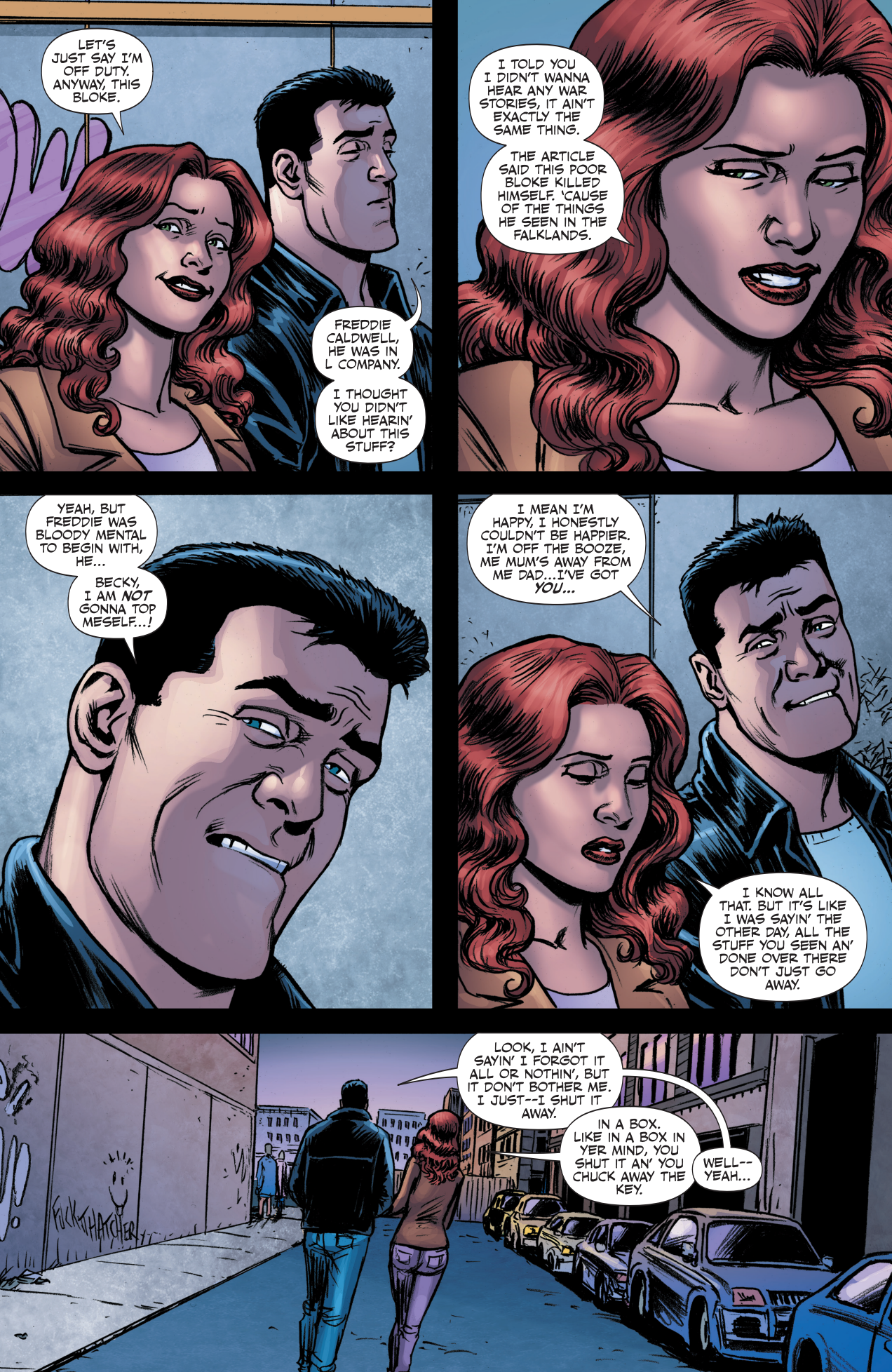
WHAT?
OH, HE'S SUCH A NOBBER...!
HE'S NOT THAT BAD--!
YEAH HE IS. ALWAYS GETS NASTY AFTER A COUPLA DRINKS, MAKES A SIR JOHN OF HIMSELF.

AN' HE FANCIES THE FUCKIN' ARSE OFF YOU, KID.
WHAT'D YOU SAY?
I SAID HE DON'T LIKE ME ONE BIT.

HE'S JUST A BIT SPIKY, THAT'S ALL.
LOOK, DO IT FOR ME, WILL YOU? SHEILA AN' ME GO BACK TO SIXTH FORM COLLEGE, I DON'T WANNA LOSE TOUCH WITH HER.

I MEAN YOU GET ON ALL RIGHT WITH HER, DON'T YOU?
YEAH, SHE'S NICE ENOUGH. PRETTY SURE SHE HAD MY GARLIC NAAN AS WELL AS HER OWN LAST TIME, THOUGH.
NOW...!


WELL, SHE'S A GROWIN' GIRL.
JESUS CHRIST...
YOU KNOW, I THINK THEM KIDS MIGHT WANT THEIR SWINGS BACK.
AH, GIVE 'EM A TUBE O' GLUE TO PLAY WITH. THEY'LL BE FINE.
COME ON...!
YOU KNOW THAT BLOKE WE WERE TALKIN' ABOUT? THE MARINE?
UH, THE ONE YOU SAID YOU SAW IN THE PAPER?
YEAH, YOU KNOW...
LOOK AT THAT. I WEREN'T FAR OFF.
OH, GOD ALMIGHTY--!
AIN'T YOU GONNA DO NOTHIN' ABOUT IT? BECKY BUTCHER, SOCIAL WORKER?


LET'S JUST SAY I'M OFF DUTY. ANYWAY, THIS BLOKE.
FREDDIE CALDWELL, HE WAS IN L COMPANY.
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE HEARIN' ABOUT THIS STUFF?
I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T WANNA HEAR ANY WAR STORIES, IT AIN'T EXACTLY THE SAME THING.
THE ARTICLE SAID THIS POOR BLOKE KILLED HIMSELF. 'CAUSE OF THE THINGS HE SEEN IN THE FALKLANDS.
YEAH, BUT FREDDIE WAS BLOODY MENTAL TO BEGIN WITH, HE...
BECKY, I AM *NOT* GONNA TOP MESELF...!
I MEAN I'M HAPPY, I HONESTLY COULDN'T BE HAPPIER. I'M OFF THE BOOZE, ME MUM'S AWAY FROM ME DAD...I'VE GOT *YOU*...
I KNOW ALL THAT. BUT IT'S LIKE I WAS SAYIN' THE OTHER DAY, ALL THE STUFF YOU SEEN AN' DONE OVER THERE DON'T JUST GO AWAY.
LOOK, I AIN'T SAYIN' I FORGOT IT ALL OR NOTHIN', BUT IT DON'T BOTHER ME. I JUST--I SHUT IT AWAY.
IN A BOX. LIKE IN A BOX IN YER MIND, YOU SHUT IT AN' YOU CHUCK AWAY THE KEY.
WELL-- YEAH...
FUCK THATCHER

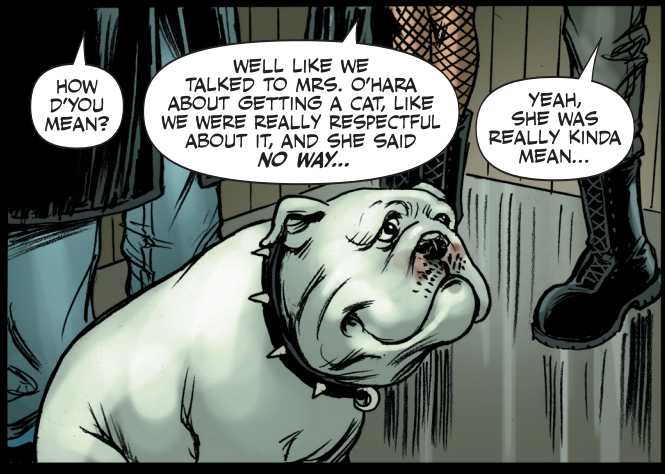
YOU DON'T, BILLY.
HOW D'YOU KNOW...?
BECAUSE THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAN REALLY DO THAT ARE NUTTERS, AN' THAT AIN'T YOU.
HEH. WELL--
I AIN'T JOKIN'.
YOU'D BE COLD. RUTHLESS. EMPTY. AN' THAT'D BE ALL THERE WAS TO YOU.
ALL THE GOOD STUFF BETWEEN US WOULD JUST BE AN ACT.
THIS AIN'T NO ACT, LUV.
NO, I KNOW.
ALL RIGHT, YOU DON'T WANT ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT-- BUT YOU WANT ME TO DO SOMETHIN', YEAH?
I WOULDN'T BE NO GOOD TO YOU ANYWAY, I'VE GOT NO IDEA ABOUT WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH OVER THERE.
BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DO.

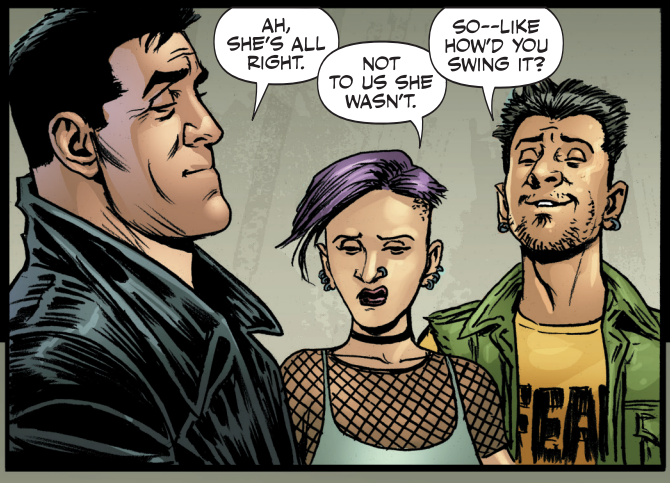
SEE, THEY SAY THE ONE THING THAT REALLY HELPS IF YOU'VE SUFFERED A TRAUMA--
SUFFERED A TRAUMA?
IT'S JUST WHAT THEY CALL IT. THEY SAY WHAT HELPS THE MOST IS *TALKIN'*--TO PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN THROUGH THE SAME SORTA THINGS YOU HAVE.
AN' I'VE LOOKED INTO THIS, THERE'S THESE GROUPS OF VETERANS, RIGHT? SOME FROM THE FALKLANDS, SOME FROM NORTHERN IRELAND OR WHEREVER...
SWOP
AN' THEY GET TOGETHER IN A GROUP AN' THEY TALK--
AW, THAT'S FOR *WANKERS...!*
I'M GLAD YOU'RE KEEPIN' AN OPEN MIND...
YOU CAN'T HONESTLY SEE ME DOIN' THAT, CAN YOU?
SITTIN' AROUND IN A CIRCLE MOPIN' AN' WHININ'? *UM, 'SCUSE ME, IS IT MY TURN TO CRY NOW?*
BILLY, I KNOW YOU DON'T THINK SO, BUT THIS IS REAL.
NOW MAYBE YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TROUBLE WITH IT AN' MAYBE YOU AIN'T, BUT IF YOU DO YOU'RE GONNA NEED *SOMETHIN'* TO GET YOU THROUGH IT...
I'VE GOT SOMETHIN'.
WHUP!

I'VE GOT THIS GIRL.
AN' EVERY TIME I SEE HER, HER HAIR LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE SUNSET.
AN' IF YOU EVER TELL ANYONE I SAID THAT, LENNY OR ANY O' THEM, I'M...GONNA HAVE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
PROMISE ME YOU'LL THINK ABOUT IT?
YOU TAKE ME HOME NOW?
BLOODY RIGHT I WILL.

DUDE?

MM...?
DUDE, UH, WE WERE JUST WONDERING...HOW ARE YOU ALLOWED TO HAVE HIM HERE?


HOW D'YOU MEAN?
WELL LIKE WE TALKED TO MRS. O'HARA ABOUT GETTING A CAT, LIKE WE WERE REALLY RESPECTFUL ABOUT IT, AND SHE SAID NO WAY...
YEAH, SHE WAS REALLY KINDA MEAN...


AH, SHE'S ALL RIGHT.
NOT TO US SHE WASN'T.
SO--LIKE HOW'D YOU SWING IT?

WELL, THE FACT O' THE MATTER IS...THE BLOKE WHO HAD YOUR PLACE BEFORE YOU DID, HE WAS A BIT OF A CUNT.
OH YEAH?
YEAH, HE WAS A NASTY BASTARD. JUNKIE. KEPT THE PLACE LIKE A FUCKIN' PIGSTY, GOT BEHIND ON THE RENT--I MEAN WE'RE TALKIN' MONTHS AN' MONTHS.
SHE WENT ROUND TO ASK HIM ABOUT IT, AN' HE WENT RIGHT OVER THE BLEEDIN' TOP WITH HER...

HE TOLD HER HE WAS H.I.V. POSITIVE, AN' IF SHE DIDN'T PISS OFF HE'D CUT HIMSELF AN' SPRAY IT ON HER.
IF SHE TRIED TO HAVE HIM EVICTED OR CALLED THE OL' BILL, HE'D JUST COME BACK AN' GET HER LATER ON.
MOTHERFUCKER...
SO DID YOU LIKE TALK TO HIM...?
NAH, I DIDN'T SAY A WORD TO HIM. I CHUCKED HIM OUT HIS KITCHEN WINDOW AN' BROKE HIS FUCKIN' BACK.
AFTER THAT OL' TERROR HERE WAS AS WELCOME AS CAN BE.
SEE YOU.
...NOT REALLY ON, IS IT, MATE?
NOT REALLY ON AT ALL.

VOICI UN BON MORCEAU.
BAXTER-PUGH SAYS--I REALLY DON'T THINK THIS IS THE TIME TO DISCUSS IT...
LA TEEN TEMPTRESS SAYS--WELL, WHEN IS THE TIME TO BLEEDING WELL DISCUSS IT?
BAXTER-PUGH SAYS SOMETHING THE MICROPHONE DOES NOT PICK UP, BUT TEEN TEMPTRESS INTERRUPTS...
THAT CUNT AT VOUGHT, HE TOLD ME THEY WAS NOT A LEGITIMATE EXPENSE BECAUSE THEY AIN'T ON SHOW.
ON SHOW. ON FUCKING SHOW. THEY WON'T PAY TO SORT THEM OUT BECAUSE I DON'T RUN AROUND WITH THEM HANGING OUT LIKE SOME TART DOWN... BERMONDSEY WAY?
YEAH, JUST GO ON, MATE.
J.B.P. TRIES ONCE MORE, BUT THE LADY IS HAVING NONE OF IT--I PULLED THAT BLACK LAD WITH THE ROBOT BITS LAST YEAR, AND WHEN I TOOK ME TOP OFF HE STARTED PUKING UP HYDRAULIC FLUID.
AND I DON'T BLAME THE POOR CUNT. WHEN IS SOMEONE GOING TO FUCKING WELL DO SOMETHING?

WHAT DOES HE SAY?
AH...AFTER THIS YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PAY FOR IT YOURSELF, YOU CAN CHANGE THEM WHATEVER WAY YOU LIKE...
THEN THEY TALK ABOUT ROYALTIES AGAIN. IT JUST GETS BORING.
FUCKIN' HELL. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPES.
OUI...?
WELL, AT LEAST THEY'RE ENTERTAININ', AIN'T THEY?
I MEAN IMAGINE IF WE WAS UP AGAINST SOME LOADA BORIN' BASTARDS, UH... WHO'S THE BADDIES NOWADAYS, GENERALLY?
WELL... WE WON THE COLD WAR, SO...
I DUNNO, IN THE MOVIES THEY ALWAYS KINDA FALL BACK ON ARAB TERRORISTS?
THERE YOU GO. IMAGINE BUGGIN' THEIR H.Q., I MEAN THE CUNTS DON'T EVEN DRINK.
GOD IS GREAT-- HERE, ABDUL, DID YOU REMEMBER TO GET THEM BOMBS SORTED OUT, SON?
AH, SORRY, LADS-- GOD IS GREAT. I COMPLETELY FUCKIN' FORGOT.
FUCKIN' HELL, ABDUL, NOT AGAIN! GOD IS GREAT.
OH, SPEAKIN' O' BUGS--I STUCK ONE ON VIKOR'S HELMET WHEN THE FEMALE WAS GIVIN' HIS MATES A SPANKIN'. JUST IN CASE YOU TWIG WHEN YOU'RE DOIN' INVENTORY.

'FUCK YOU DO THAT FOR?
SO IF HE BOTTLES IT WITH STORMFRONT AN' TRIES TO FEED ME A LOAD OF OL' BOLLOCKS, I'LL KNOW.
AN' IF THE BIG LAD DOES LOSE THE HEAD WITH HIM, WELL, MAYBE WE'LL STILL GET SOMETHIN' WORTH HAVIN'...
M'SIEU CHARCUTER, LE COLONEL WILL NOT LIKE THIS...!
YOU KNOW HE INSISTS ON GREAT CARE WHEN PLACING BUGS...IF ONE IS DISCOVERED, IT COULD LEAD TO OUR DISCOVERY--AND THEN LE CHAT SERA SORTI DU SAC...
WELL, WHAT HE DON'T KNOW WON'T HURT HIM, WILL IT?
BUTCHER, MAN, YOU KNOW THAT AIN'T THE WAY IT WORKS.
I MEAN ORDERS ARE ORDERS, PROCEDURE IS PROCEDURE, OTHERWISE THE WHOLE GODDAMN THING COLLAPSES...YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT, YOU WERE IN THE MILITARY...
WE ALL WAS, MATE. EXCEPT HERSELF OVER THERE.
LOOK, I KNEW IF I TRIED TO CLEAR IT WITH MALLORY THERE'D BE A WHOLE SONG AN' DANCE, AN' I JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME. AN' ORDERS ARE ORDERS--WELL, OFFICERS LIKE THAT SHIT 'COS IT WORKS FOR THEM, DON'T THEY?
FOR THE REST OF US IT JUST GETS IN THE BLEEDIN' WAY...
HUH.
I HAVE NOT THOUGHT OF IT PRECISELY LIKE THAT BEFORE. OF LE COLONEL AS THE OFFICER, AND US...AS...
THEN HOW COME YOU KEEP ON CALLIN' HIM COLONEL?

I MEAN I AIN'T SAYIN' HE'S A BAD OFFICER. I'VE KNOWN BOTH SORTS.
BLOKE RAN MY PLATOON WHEN WE WENT DOWN TO THE SOUTH ATLANTIC WAS ALL RIGHT. BUT HE GOT REPLACED AT THE LAST MINUTE BY THIS TOTAL ARSEHOLE, STEPPED ON A MINE IN THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES O' THE ATTACK...
DID YOU... HOW DO YOU SAY, DID YOU FRAG HIM?
NO...!
OH, I JUST THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE THE SORT OF THING THAT YOU WOULD DO.
JESUS, FRENCHIE, YOU'VE GOT A DARK FUCKIN' VIEW O' ME!
I DUNNO...
JESUS CHRIST!
SO, YOU ARE SURE THAT YOU DID NOT FRAG THIS MAN?
YEAH, I'M SURE.
CERTAIN?
WELL IF I WAS AS MUCH OF A CUNT AS YOU SEEM TO THINK I AM, I'D HARDLY HAVE ANY TROUBLE TELLIN' YOU I DID, WOULD I?
TRUE ENOUGH.
WHY DO I GET THE IDEA... YOU WERE EVER IN CHARGE...YOU'D EXPECT US TO FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS NO MATTER WHAT?

THOMPSON & GARAND
IF WHO WAS IN CHARGE?
ME.
THAT'LL BE THE DAY.
ANYTHING NEW TO REPORT?
UH, YEAH... FRENCHIE'S GOT THE TRANSCRIPTS IF YOU WANNA TAKE A LOOK...
JUST TELL ME.
THINK WE WERE RIGHT ABOUT BAXTER-PUGH.
THEY ASKED HIM THREE TIMES WHEN THEY GO INTO ACTION. HE KEEPS SAYIN' BE PATIENT, ONLY BEEN A COUPLA DAYS.
NOW, VOUGHT WANTS TO SHOWCASE A NEW TEAM, USUALLY THEY STAGE A FIGHT WIT' A VILLAIN OR TWO. EASY AS HELL TO ARRANGE. BUT J.B.P. GETTIN' MORE PISSY EACH TIME THEY PUSH HIM ON THIS...
SKORCHERS
BECAUSE VOUGHT WON'T PLAY BALL.
BE MY GUESS.
SUPERHUMAN DEVELOPMENT CONTROL THE SUPES. AND THERE IS NO BENEFIT WHATSOEVER FOR THEM IN BAXTER-PUGH'S EXPERIMENT WITH THE SKORCHERS SUCCEEDING.
QUITE THE OPPOSITE, IN FACT.

VOUGHT WON'T PLAY BALL. SO WHAT DOES HE DO?
HE EITHER PRAYS FOR SOME SORTA NATURAL DISASTER--WHICH IS CHANCEY EVEN IF IT DOES HAPPEN, 'COS THIS MOB COULDN'T STOP A STRAY FART--
OR HE COMES UP WITH HIS OWN SUPES.
JUST LIKE THAT...?
I DON'T MEAN REAL ONES; ALL HE HAS TO DO IS DRESS UP HALF A DOZEN ACTORS OR WHATEVER AN' CALL 'EM THE BROTHERHOOD OF CUNTS.
SKORCHERS DO THE JOB RIGHT HE WON'T EVEN HAVE TO PAY 'EM. AN' SO LONG AS THE MEDIA'VE BEEN TIPPED OFF...
TEEN TEMPTRESS
PONCING
THE NEW TEAM IS WELL AND TRULY LAUNCHED. AND SUPERHUMAN DEVELOPMENT CAN'T DO A DAMN THING ABOUT IT.
IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE IN OUR INTERESTS TO MAKE SURE THIS GOES OFF WITHOUT A HITCH.
HANG ON, WE WANT ANOTHER TEAM O' SUPES OUT THERE?
WE WANT TO STIR THE POT. THE GREATER VOUGHT'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS, THE EASIER OUR JOB.
WHY WOULD LES, LES GRANDES ENCHILADAS AT VOUGHT-AMERICAN ENCOURAGE SUCH STRIFE...?
IT'S THAT THEORY OF CORPORATE COMPETITION YIELDING THE BEST RESULTS. THESE PEOPLE PROBABLY MAKE THEIR KIDS FIGHT OVER PRESENTS ON CHRISTMAS MORNING.
IF BUTCHER'S RIGHT, THIS'LL HAPPEN SOONER RATHER THAN LATER...M.M., AS SOON AS THE BUGS YIELD ANYTHING I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT, UNDERSTOOD?

YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR YEARS, LOVE.
WHY IS IT YOU'RE ON MY MIND SO MUCH NOW?
I'VE BEEN CRACKING SKULLS FOR MALLORY ALL THIS TIME. I'VE EVEN SLIT THE ODD THROAT. I GET WHAT I WANT AND HE GETS WHAT HE WANTS, AND ONE DAY I'LL EVEN GET A GO AT THE BASTARD I'M REALLY AFTER.
I KNOW IT'S NOT FOR YOU, IT'S ALL FOR ME.
I TWIGGED THAT A LONG TIME BACK.
SO WHY NOW?
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHAT I KNOW.
AND WHAT I KNOW, OR WHAT I COME TO UNDERSTAND, IS CRACKING SKULLS ISN'T ENOUGH NO MORE. NEITHER'S THE ODD THROAT.
NOT WHEN IT COMES TO THE SUPES.

THAT'S GOING TO TAKE A FUCK OF A LOT MORE.
ANNIE JANUARY
OH, JESUS.
OH, CHRIST.
NO WONDER SHE'S ON YOUR MIND.
YOU'VE JUST DECIDED YOU'RE GONNA KILL THEM ALL.
TO BE CONTINUED

WILL THE DIE!NAMITE CREATIVE TEAM SURVIVE THEIR OWN BOOK?

John, these pesky Martians have attacked all kinds of folks. From their peers who prefer to call the planet Barsoom, to KISS, finheads, lawgivers and the innocent minds of children lucky enough to come across the original cards. How does the She-Devil With a Sword measure up against the big brainies and is there a challenge in bringing them to the Hyborian Age?

DIE!namite is quite the fun title for a comic book! So beyond that clever bit, what exactly is this book? Who is in it? Tell us more!

Declan Shalvey: *For me, it's all about the title, who cares about the 'story' or 'characters'...? Just kidding!*

DIE!namite is a big, bold mishmash of genres, pitting the biggest characters Dynamite has to offer against the greatest threat they've ever faced; a chilling force of undead creatures! It has Vampirella, Red Sonja, Project Super-powers, and much more. This book spans cities, space, time, and universes, no one is safe from being eaten alive!

Declan, over the past couple years you've gotten more into writing (Bog Bodies, Deadpool vs Old Man Logan), becoming a two-way threat on top of being one of the best artists in the biz. This may be your biggest project yet — how did you begin to approach it?

Declan: *Well, I was excited by the potential scope of the series. A lot of ideas were shaken out of me by having a back and forth with editor Nate Cosby. What's great is that we get to use all the biggest Dynamite characters, but also play around with them a bit and see them in a different light. Zombie books are always fun and the threat is a great way to force these very disparate characters together. From a writing standpoint, it was a challenge to do something that feels more like a blockbuster movie than say, an indie crime film.*

With your artistic background, how does that impact the way you write for others and collaborate with not just Justin, but Chris and Gabriela here?

Declan: *I believe it does, and hopefully in a positive way! I definitely have an idea of what I'm looking for, but what was most important was building a great team. Chris and I have worked together before, but Justin and Gabriela were new names to me. Once I saw their work though, we pounced on them. When you have such a great team, it's important to let them contribute their best and improve what I had in the script. It's hugely exciting to see the pages come in, they look amazing and the best thing of all is... I didn't have to draw them!*

Let's put those claims to the test! Justin, you're still early into your career [check out Vengeance of Vampirella #5!]. How has it been working with Declan and particularly artist to artist?

Justin Mason: *Its fantastic working with Declan! With him being an artist, it's a lot more fun because we both have the same interests and ideas. Declan always pushes me as an artist which is helping me grow, throwing some ideas my way and vice versa. Honestly, working on this book doesn't even feel like work, it's more of a learning experience under Declan. I couldn't have been more blessed with this opportunity and I'm so thankful to be a part of such a stacked creative team.*

Chris, on other projects like the smash hit Immortal Hulk or Ice Cream Man, you've dealt in mixing genres, such as traditional superhero/sci-fi/action with touches of horror. How are you handling the coloring on this? And we imagine there will be lots of red blood!

Chris O'Halloran: *I have done a bit of work mixing those kinds of aspects so I'm used to it. Letting the characters shine but getting the tone right for the story is certainly the goal here. Each of the characters is coming from a different genre essentially, so playing with that and placing them together in the same world is part of my attraction to this. That and matching the incredible energy Justin brings to the story with his art. But the fun part... Blood and gore. Is there a lot of red? Read and find out. (*There will be more than plenty of it)*

Sometimes zombies like to mumble, growl, and then they get to biting and tearing at flesh. You also have a diverse cast of characters from across space and even time periods. How will some of those factors or other challenges show up in the lettering, Gabriela?

Gabriela Downie: *With so many variables involved, it's important to keep it simple and polished! Relying on teammates is key, every member brings value to the project. Editors, artists, and writers have knowledge and experiences I can learn from, so trusting my teammates to guide me is key! Equally, trusting in me and my unique take on lettering is important too, for crafting an innovative product. Together we create a voice so vivid, and clear, it jumps out at the reader from the page!*

Which characters are you guys most excited to depict kicking some zombie ass - or getting torn to shreds and turned?

Declan: *I wrote a scene in #2 with an epic shot of Red Sonja fighting an army of medieval zombies with an axe and I cannot wait to see how that looks!*

Chris: *I'm eager to see some Red Sonja action tearing through the undead too!*

Justin: *Red Sonja has to be that character for me because she's a straight-up badass! Hands down the deadliest thing to come at you with an axe. There's just so much blood to be had while drawing any panels with her against zombies. I guarantee there's never going to be a boring scene with her!*

Gabriela: *Zombies really test a character's ability to problem-solve on the spot! Hopefully, the desperation to survive will help bring out new sides to characters we think we already know...*

How should fans preorder this book with their Local Comic Shop?

Everyone: Yell "I want DIEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEnamite #1!!!"

NEXT ISSUE

Hughie gets a glimpse of what married life is like and is not at all put off, but- being Hughie- he soon pushes his luck too far. Meanwhile, Butcher finds a Supe eager to please for once- but when all hell breaks loose at Yankee Stadium, he starts to smell a big fat rat...

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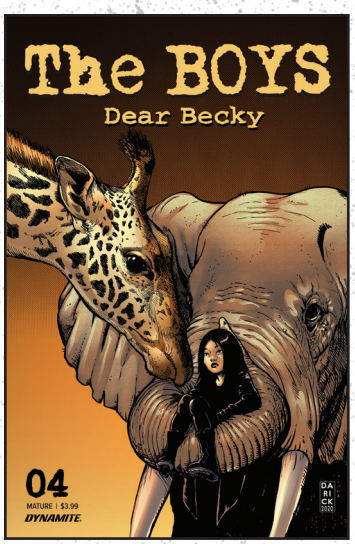

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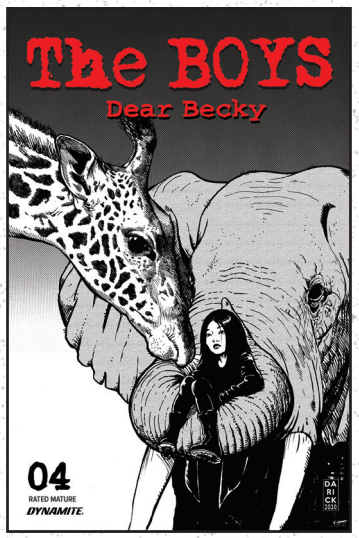

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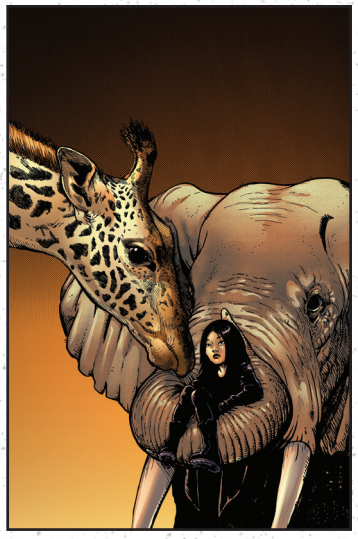

VIRGIN ART PREMIUM FOC BONUS VARIANT COVER
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